Quality Standards and Clinical Audit: NICE Update

Val Moore, Guidelines Implementation Programme Director
NICE guidance

- Clinical guidelines
- Medicines practice guidelines
- Public health guidelines
- Social care guidelines
- Technology appraisals (medicines)
- Interventional procedures guidance
- Medical technologies guidance
- Diagnostic guidance
NICE guidance

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Recs. used for Quality standards development

May be used for ‘developmental’ statements within standards
Find all up to date recommendations and tools on NICE pathways

- Clinical guidelines
- Medicines practice guidelines
- Public health guidelines
- Social care guidelines
- Technology appraisals (medicines)
- Interventional procedures guidance
- Medical technologies guidance
- Diagnostic guidance
What are NICE quality standards?

A comprehensive set of recommendations for a particular disease or condition, particular need or service

Evidence

Guidance

Quality Standards

A concise set of statements designed to drive and measure priority quality improvements within a particular area of care. Typically 6-8 statements per standard
What makes up a QS?

- Quality statement
- Rationale
- Quality measure
- Audience descriptor
- Source guidance
- Data Source
- Definitions
The role of clinical audit in monitoring adherence to quality standards
# Quality Measures

## How they help measure quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organisational characteristics</td>
<td>Interactions Functions Actions</td>
<td>Changes in individuals and populations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Structure**
  - Organisational characteristics

- **Process**
  - Interactions
  - Functions
  - Actions

- **Outcome**
  - Changes in individuals and populations

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**NICE**
National comparison

• Where they can, quality standards will help inform future national audits

• The Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) is an example of this - statements 3, 5 and 11 are all considered within the 2012 report

• We would like local audit results too in order to understand impact
Use of national clinical audit data by NICE

- Guidance review decisions
- Quality standards scoping
- Uptake database on NICE website

- Identifying implementation support priorities with system partners
Support for audit in practice

We use NICE audit support all the time

They help us assure and improve our services
Support for audit in practice

We use NICE audit support all the time.

Do we have to audit everything – we are overwhelmed by the number of outputs from NICE.

They help us assure and improve our services.
Using NICE QS to highlight areas for improvement

An initial assessment should consider:

- Whether each statement is relevant to the organisation
- How the current service compares to the statement
- Source of information to evidence this
- What actions/resources would be required to improve the service to meet the quality standard statement
- An initial assessment of risk associated with not making these improvements
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested measure</th>
<th>Suggested data source</th>
<th>Evidence for the measure</th>
<th>Is this an area for quality improvement?</th>
<th>Actions needed to improve quality</th>
<th>Action by date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Structure measure:**
Evidence of local arrangements to ensure people with a clinic blood pressure of 140/90 mmHg or higher receive ambulatory blood pressure monitoring to confirm a diagnosis of hypertension. | Local data collection | For example, evidence of local arrangements for a structure measure or numerator and denominator for a process measure. | | | |
| **Process measure:**
Proportion of people with a clinic blood pressure of 140/90 mmHg or higher who receive ambulatory blood pressure monitoring to confirm a diagnosis of hypertension.
Numerator - The number of people in the denominator who received ambulatory blood pressure monitoring to confirm a diagnosis of hypertension.
Denominator - The number of people with clinic blood pressure of 140/90 mmHg or higher. | Local data collection. Contained within NICE clinical guideline 127 clinical audit tool: diagnosing hypertension, criterion 1. See also data collection tool for the hypertension quality standard | | | | |
| **Local measure:**
HBSC Community Health Survey | | | | | |
Sources of information to support this initial assessment could include:

- New or existing service user feedback
- Complaints or Serious Untoward Incidents
- Audit information (including national audit data)
- Prescribing or activity data
- Views of the service/team
- Process maps
- Service user experience interviews
Locally prioritised quality improvement

The initial assessment can:

• Provide assurance
• If positive be included in the trust’s quality account
• Indicate areas requiring quality improvement and
  – inform local quality improvement programme planning
  – support discussions with commissioners
• Inform the organisation’s annual audit programme (by identifying priority areas for audit) and business planning
• Inform local risk management, in collaboration with the service’s commissioners
Introduction

Aim of this guide

Who this guide is for

About NICE

Aim of this guide

This guide aims to help and support health and social care provider organisations to implement National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance and use NICE quality standards to achieve improved quality of care in their local settings. It aims to support health and social care professionals and managers in providing care of the highest quality and the best value for money. The guide suggests what an organisation can put in place, and what staff can do to use NICE evidence-based guidance and quality standards to improve practice.

The guide explains ways to assess the extent to which your organisation is implementing NICE guidance and quality standards in practice.
Data collection tool for all suitable process measures involving patient/service user records.
### Organisation audit tool for autism in children and young people (CG128 and CG170)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NICE recommendation</th>
<th>Recommendation met?</th>
<th>Current activity/evidence</th>
<th>Actions needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local pathway for recognition, referral and diagnostic assessment of possible autism</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- A local autism multi-agency strategy group should be set up, with managerial, commissioner and clinical representation from:
  - child health services
  - child mental health services
  - education
  - social care
  - parent and carer service users
  - the voluntary sector.
Considerations for the future

• NICE capacity to provide audit support
• Timing - finalise clinical guideline audit support when QS improvement priorities are known?
• Ways to formalise communication links with national clinical audit teams
• A process to suggest priorities for national audit based on NICE quality standards
• Feedback from those involved at the sharp end!
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